

Message Text

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TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 447
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, IEU

C R R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR OMISSION IN PARA ONE

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/AMBASSADOR SPIERS INTERVIEW

1. AFTERNOON OF 24 JANUARY, AMBASSADOR RONALD I. SPIERS WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE ANKA NEWS AGENCY. CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH, THE INTERVIEW THEN WAS TRANSLATED INTO TURKISH BY ANKA AND RELEASED TO ITS CLIENTS. NIGHT OF 24 JANUARY TURKISH RADIO TELEVISION SERVICE (TRT) EXCERPTED PORTIONS OF INTERVIEW IN NEWSCASTS BOTH RADIO AND TELEVISION. ON 25 JANUARY, COVERAGE OF INTERVIEW APPEARED IN ALL OF THE FIVE MAJOR NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, ALTHOUGH GUNAYDIN PRINTED ONLY BRIEF SUMMARY. LONGEST TAKEOUT WAS IN TERCUMAN (CONSERVATIVE, NOW OPPOSITION PAPER SINCE FORMATION ECEVIT
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GOVERNMENT THIS MONTH). TERCUMAN ARTICLE TRANSLATED IN FULL IN PARA TWO BELOW. PARA THREE WILL SET OUT DIFFERENCES AMONG HANDLING BY OTHER PAPERS.

2. SLUGGED "FOREIGN NEWS SERVICE", FRONT PAGE STORY BEGINS QUOTING ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON VANCE TRIP WITH THE HEADLINE "THE U.S. DID NOT GIVE ANY

GUARANTEE ON THE EMBARGO," FROM THE UPI REPORT, (STRAIGHT PICK UP; NO INTERPRETATION) AND THEN REFERS TO AMBASSADOR SPIERS INTERVIEW:

(BEGIN TEXT)

U.S.A. AMBASSADOR SPIERS IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, YESTERDAY, STATING THAT HE WAS FOR THE LIFTING OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY SAID, "I AM PREPARED TO ARGUE WITH ANYONE WHO SAYS THAT THE EMBARGO IS "A TRUMP CARD WHICH WILL PRODUCE A SOLUTION IN CYPRUS." THE EMBARGO HAS NOT MADE A SOLUTION EASIER, ON THE CONTRARY IT HAS MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT." SPIERS ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE EMBARGO, WHICH PREVENTS TURKEY FROM MEETING HER RESPONSIBILITIES IN NATO, WOULD BE LIFTED BY SPRING.

IN HIS STATEMENT, BESIDES THE TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND CYPRUS, MR. SPIERS ALSO COMMENTED ON THE TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE, THE GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP ON THE AEGEAN ISLANDS, IMF AND THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE TURKISH ECONOMY. THE AMBASSADOR, STATING THAT THE EMBARGO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT CASTING A SHADOW ON THE TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SUPPORTED THE VIEW THAT AS LONG AS THIS ISSUE IS NOT SOLVED THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. IN RELATION TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT, IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE, THE U.S. STAND TOWARDS BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD BE THE SAME, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR SAID, "AS LONG AS THE NATIONS INVOLVED CAN SOLVE THEIR ISSUES THEMSELVES, UNCLASSIFIED

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THERE IS NOTHING MORE NATURAL THAN THE UNITED STATES STAY AWAY FROM BOTH SIDES." NEVERTHELESS, THE AMBASSADOR RECOGNIZED THE FACT THAT THE ARMS EMBARGO IMPOSED BY HIS COUNTRY ON TURKEY COULD MEAN TAKING SIDES, BUT SAID THAT THE CONGRESS HAD DECIDED ON THE EMBARGO BECAUSE TURKEY "HAD USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES THE ARMS MEANT FOR NATO USE." IN ANSWER TO AN ANKA REPORTER WHO ASKED HIS VIEW ON THE GREEK ARMING OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK BECAUSE WHAT HE SAID COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INTERFERENCE, BUT STATED THAT "THESE ISLANDS WERE GREEK TERRITORY" AND THAT GREECE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE TURKISH AEGEAN ARMY. IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION BY THE ANKA REPORTER ON WHETHER ANY HELP COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THE U.S. FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE TURKISH ECONOMY AND THEREFORE HER DEFENSE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT TURKEY IS OUT OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM AND THERE IS NO QUESTION OF TURKEY BEING INCLUDED ONCE AGAIN IN THIS PROGRAM. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT TURKEY OPEN HER DOORS TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND CORPORATIONS SAYING, "TURKEY, WHO AS A POLITICAL PREFERENCE KEEPS FOREIGN FIRMS OUT OF HER BORDERS, HAS NO RIGHT TO SPEAK ABOUT THE SHORTAGE OF CAPITAL." ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT

AND IMF, AMBASSADOR SPIERS SAID THAT A TECHNICAL REPORT IS IN PREPARATION AND THAT AFTER THIS REPORT IS PREPARED TURKEY COULD APPLY TO IMF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WHICH INCLUDES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND ASK THAT CONDITIONS BE SOFTENED.

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FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, IEU

ON THE SUBJECT OF EMBARGO AND CYPRUS MR. SPIERS SAID, "I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT THE TURKISH-U.S. RELATIONS ARE INTERMIXED WITH THE CYPRUS ISSUE. I USED THE EXPRESSION 'I AM SORRY TO SAY' BECAUSE MY PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT THESE TWO ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS RELATED. THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT DEMAND PROGRESS IN CYPRUS (SIC;) AS A PRE-CONDITION; AND AS THIS WOULD MEAN TURKEY TAKING THE INITIATIVE IN CYPRUS, MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THIS WILL CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER BOTH FOR THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS TO TAKE MEASURES WHICH I BELIEVE WILL PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TURKISH-U.S. RELATIONS ON A SOUNDER BASIS." STATING THAT THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT CASTING A SHADOW ON TURKISH-U.S. RELATIONS IS THE EMBARGO, SPIERS SAID, "THE EMBARGO DOES NOT SERVE THE LONG-RANGE INTERESTS OF THE U.S., TURKEY OR NATO, OR EVEN GREECE. BUT IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT
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THE EMBARGO IS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT AND THE CONGRESS, WHICH IS AN INDEPENDENT BRANCH OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, HAS RELATED THE TWO ISSUES. AND THIS IS A REALITY WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY EVERY ADMINISTRATION WHICH COMES INTO POWER IN THE U.S. MY OPINION IS THAT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE ON THIS SUBJECT. BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY NOW HOW SUCCESSFUL THIS COULD BE. THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT THAT UNLESS A SOLUTION IS FOUND TO THIS ISSUE THE DESIRED RAPPROACHMENT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CANNOT BE REALIZED. I AM PREPARED TO ARGUE WITH ANYONE WHO CLAIMS THE EMBARGO IS A TRUMP-CARD WHICH WILL PRODUCE A SOLUTION IN CYPRUS, BECAUSE THE EMBARGO HAS NOT MADE REACHING A SOLUTION EASIER, ON THE CONTRARY IT HAS MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT."

SPIERS HAS SUMMED UP HIS VIEW THAT IN THE TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE THE U.S. STAND TOWARDS THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE THE SAME SAYING, "THE CONTINUANCE OF THE DISAGREEMENT IN CYPRUS AFFECTS OUR RELATIONS WITH OUR TWO ALLIES, AND ALSO ALSOUPSETS THE HARMONY IN THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO AND GIVES WAY TO DISTURBANCES IN CYPRUS WHICH WE RECOGNIZE AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION WITH WHICH WE HAVE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WE WISH THE REMOVAL OF THIS DISORDER. THAT MEANS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A NATIONAL INTEREST IN THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE."

(SUBHEAD) RELATIONS WITH IMF

ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE IMF AND TURKEY MR. SPIERS SAID, "I ACCEPT THE FACT THAT FOR A GOVERNMENT TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT WITH IMF IS 'A BITTER EXPERIMENT.' BECAUSE SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS COMPRISED OF DISCIPLINING THE ECONOMY AND THE POLICY OF TIGHTENING THE BELT. AND THESE ARE MEASURES WHICH ARE NEVER POPULAR IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES. THE DICTATORS HAVE NO PROBLEM SUCH AS FEAR FROM PUBLIC REACTION. WHEREAS IN DEMOCRACIES THIS ISSUE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT AN ECONOMY CANNOT

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ALWAYS BE SUBJECT TO POLITICS. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT ACCEPTING THESE MEASURES WILL BRING WITH THEM A PAINFUL PERIOD, IT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THESE MEASURES IS THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO SHORTEN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN TODAY AND A BRILLIANT FUTURE." (END TEXT)

3. OTHER COVERAGE, WITH EXCEPTIONS NOTED BELOW, DID NOT DEPART SUBSTANTIVELY FROM TERCUMAN. CUMHURIYET AND HURRIYET BOTH USED THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE ON THE SUBJECT OF CYPRUS/ EMBARGO LINKAGE:

"THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THERE IS A WIDE BELIEF IN TURKEY THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, WHEREAS THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE IS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF AMERICA. POINTING TO THE FACT THAT THERE IS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE APPROACH TO THE ISSUE BY THE FORMER AND THE PRESENT GOVERNMENTS AMBASSADOR SPIERS SAID THAT THE STAND TAKEN BY PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT THAT THE TWO ISSUES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM."
HURRIYET USED THE HEADLINE "THE EMBARGO MAY BE LIFTED IN SPRING, SAYS U.S. AMBASSADOR."

4. MILLIYET DIPLOMATIC REPORTER NILUFER YALCIN BASED HER ARTICLE ON CONVERSATION (NOT INTERVIEW) WITH THE AMBASSADOR, PLUS A READING OF THE ANKA INTERVIEW. HER ARTICLE TRANSLATED IN FULL BELOW BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS MOST RESPONSIBLE REPORTAGE. HEADLINE WAS "EMBARGO COULD BE LIFTED IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS."

(BEGIN TEXT)

IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MILLIYET, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ANKARA RONALD SPIERS SAID THE ECEVIT-VANCE TALKS WILL CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN REACHING A POSITIVE RESULT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THAT IT IS HOPED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE ATTEMPTS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BY THE CONGRESS AND SAID, "TODAY, THE JOINT OPINION AND VIEW IN TURKEY, NATO AND AMERICA IS THAT THE EMBARGO IS USELESS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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HARMFUL IN EVERY RESPECT. THE EMBARGO HAS WEAKENED NATO, HAS DETERIORATED RELATIONS WITH AN IMPORTANT ALLY SUCH AS TURKEY, HAS DELAYED THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE, AND HAS AFFECTED ADVERSELY THE TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS. THIS IS MY PERSONAL VIEW."

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 449

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, IEU

IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION ON THE VIEW OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT THAT THE AMOUNT OF THE MILITARY AID IN THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT SIGNED TWO YEARS AGO IS INSUFFICIENT TODAY, THAT THE TURKISH ECONOMY IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR HER TO MEET HER RESPONSIBILITIES IN NATO, AMBASSADOR SPIERS SAID, "MY HOPE IS THAT, AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BY THE CONGRESS, THE FINANCIAL AND SIMILAR PROBLEMS WHICH APPEAR WILL BE STUDIED BY BILATERAL, JOINT EFFORTS AND THINGS WHICH CAN BE DONE IN THESE AREAS WOULD BE DETERMINED. AFTER THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT EXAMINES HERE REQUIREMENTS AND REQUESTS ON THIS SUBJECT AND FINALIZES THEM, EXPLORATIONS WILL BEGIN ON WHAT WE CAN DO. THIS IS MY GUESS."

POINTING TO THE FACT THAT IN RECENT YEARS AMERICA'S ECONOMIC AID HAS BEEN GIVEN TO A FEW COUNTRIES WHOSE PER CAPITA PER YEAR IS ABOUT 200 DOLLARS, SPIERS SAID, "CURRENTLY IN TURKEY UNCLASSIFIED

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PER CAPITA INCOME PER YEAR IS NEAR 1000 DOLLARS. ECONOMIC AID IS NOT GIVEN TO A COUNTRY WHICH HAS REACHED SUCH A LEVEL, BUT AMERICA IS URGING INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT CERTAIN LARGE AND NECESSARY INVESTMENT PROJECTS. OF THESE TURKEY IS ALREADY IN CONSTANT RELATIONS WITH SUCH INSTITUTIONS AS THE WORLD BANK, EX-IM BANK AND OTHERS, AND IS RECEIVING LARGE AMOUNTS IN PROJECT CREDITS. MOST RECENTLY THE EX-IM BANK PROVIDED CREDIT FOR THE ELBISTAN LIGNITE PROJECT." (SUBHEAD) FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENT ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, IT IS NECESSARY THAT PROPOSALS AND POSSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE JOINT PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY AND THEN DECISIONS BE MADE. AMBASSADOR SPIERS STATED THAT, IN SPITE OF THE PROGRESS AND GREAT POTENTIAL IN THE TURKISH PRIVATE SECTOR, ESPECIALLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD, BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF CAPITAL AND TECHNICAL

"KNOW-HOW," HE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE YIELD OBTAINED IS NOT AS IT SHOULD BE. AND, HE FINDS THAT CLOSE COOPERATION AND JOINT VENTURES IN THIS FIELD BY A COUNTRY SUCH AS TURKEY WHO GAINS STRENGTH FROM ADHERENCE TO AN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC REGIME, WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL, AND THAT FEELINGS AGAINST FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENT SHOULD HAVE NO PLACE IN TURKEY ANY MORE. "FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES IS 33 BILLION DOLLARS. WE SEE NO DRAWBACK IN THIS, NOR ARE WE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT IT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TOTAL AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN A GREAT COUNTRY OF A POPULATION OF 42 MILLION SUCH AS TURKEY IS ONLY 110 MILLION DOLLARS. THIS IS A LOSS FOR BOTH SIDES, I THINK." HE STATED THAT BUREAUCRACY AND EXCESSIVE FORMALITIES SLOWED DOWN COOPERATION BETWEEN PRIVATE SECTORS. TO OUR QUESTION ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, THE AMBASSADOR GAVE THE FOLLOWING ANSWER: "THERE IS NO SUCH A THING AS AMERICAN INTERVENTION ON THIS SUBJECT. UNCLASSIFIED

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THE TURKISH AND GREEK COMMUNITIES WILL FIND THE SOLUTION BETWEEN THEMSELVES, AND WILL BE COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE FOR US. WHEN HELP IS REQUESTED FROM US, WE DO WHAT IS DESIRED OF US. VANCE'S APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM IN ANKARA WAS THIS. THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IS OF DEFINITE INTEREST TO US, AS IT IS TO OTHER NATO AND WORLD COUNTRIES. BUT THE SOLUTION TO BE FOUND BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED WOULD SURELY BE THE MOST CORRECT ONE. THE FACT THAT TURKEY STARTED PREPARING PROPOSALS WHICH COMPRISE ALL PHASES OF THE ISSUE, IN ORDER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, IS HOPEFUL." (ITEM). SPIERS

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